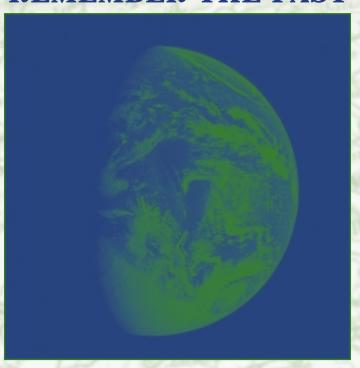
REMEMBER THE PAST



PROTECT THE FUTURE



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4/Southeastern States EPA-904-R-00-002 The mission of the
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
is to protect human health and to
safeguard the natural environment
— air, water, and land —
upon which life depends.

EPA Southeast, created December 2, 1970, serves the eight southeastern states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. We also serve six federally recognized Indian Tribes—Catawba, Eastern Cherokee, Choctaw, Miccosukee, Creek Poarch and Seminole. From Nags Head to Biloxi, from Kentucky's northern tip to the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Keys, we're a region of diversity by any standard. EPA Southeast encompasses temperate, subtropical and tropical environments and is home to some of the world's most diverse ecosystems, including: the Appalachian Mountains, the coastal areas of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, the Okefenokee Swamp, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Everglades National Park and the Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary.

The southeastern United States has witnessed a substantial growth in population over the past two decades. We are home to 52 million Americans, and we're still growing. In addition to demographic changes, we've witnessed an increase in environmental awareness and consequent demand from our citizens for improved air and water quality, pesticide and toxics monitoring, effective hazardous waste management and improved science and technology. EPA Southeast employs a diverse work force to meet the demands of our citizens.

The environmental issues we're facing today are very different from those of previous decades. In the past, pollution sources were specific and well defined. Today's primary pollution sources are much more difficult to define and control. Non-point source pollution, mobile air emissions and environmental impacts from urban sprawl are all major contributors to our current pollution woes. Our traditional regulatory approach to dealing with pollution is not easily applied to our current problems. Therefore, effective solutions will require that we work more closely than ever with local and state governments and our citizens to develop successful environmental management strategies.

EPA Southeast envisions a 21st century in which healthy and economically secure people sustain, and are sustained by, a healthy environment. While we're proud of the progress we've made, we still have far to go. We're committed to working harder than ever to ensure that nature's activities and human activities can exist in harmony—side by side.

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